सुप्रवेशः

INTRODUCTION:

In this first lesson, the student will learn some expressions of common everyday use. In these expressions, the verb अस् (to be) is understood and is not explicitly used.

Sanskrit, like other classical languages, has three genders- masculine (m), feminine (f) and neuter (n). These are indicated in the examples given. The student is advised to learn these expressions by memory.

The prelude to these tutorial lessons introduced the vowels and consonants of Sanskrit and also indicated how they are to be pronounced. The student is advised to refer to this prelude as well to memorize the basic letters.

1.1 Here are some common expressions in the first person.

मम नाम रामः	My Name is Rama (m)
mama nāma rāmaḥ	
मम नाम सीता	My Name is Sita (f)
mama nāma sītā	
मम नाम शेखरः	My Name is Sekhara (m)
mama nāma śēkharaḥ	
मम नाम उमा	My name is Uma (f)
mama nāma umā	
मम देवः शिवः	My God is Siva (m)
mama dēvaha śivaḥ	
मम देवी पार्वती	My Goddess is Parvati (f)
mama dēvī pārvatī	
मम पुत्रः माधवः	My son is Madhava (m)
mama putraḥ mādhavaḥ	
मम पुत्री विजया	My daughter is Vijaya (f)
mama putrī vijayā	

मम भर्ता विष्णु — My husband is Vishnu (m)

mama bhartā viṣṇu

मम भार्या पद्मा — My wife is padma (f)

mama bhāryā padmā

मम पिता जयदेवः — My father is Jayadeva (m)

mama pitā jayadēvaḥ

मम माता सुभद्रा — My mother is subhadra (f)

mama mātā subhadrā

मम भ्राता विजयः — My brother is Vijay (m)

mama bhrātā vijayaḥ

मम स्वसा मल्लिका — My sister is Mallika (f)

mama svasā mallikā

मम मित्रं कृष्णः — My friend is Krishna (n)

mama mitraṃ kṛṣṇaḥ

मम वाहनं तोयोता — My vehicle is Toyota (n)

mama vāhanaṃ tōyōtā

Note that the verb "to be" (i.e., the form "is" in English) is not used in any of the expressions. The explicit form of the verb अस् (to be) is always implied in expressions of this nature and in Sanskrit, as in most languages, the personal pronoun मम has no gender.

1.2 Simple expressions involving a question.

This subsection deals with expressions invoving a question, the answers to which are similar to the expressions in section 1.1.

तव नाम किं — What is your name?

tava nāma kiṃ

तव देवः कः — Who is your God?

tava dēvaḥ kaḥ

तव देवी का — Who is your Goddess?

tava dēvī kā

तव पुत्रः कः — Who is your son?

tava putraḥ kaḥ

तव पुत्री का Who is your daughter?

tava putrī kā

तव भ्राता कः Who is your brother?

tava bhrātā kaḥ

तव स्वसा का Who is your sister?

tava svasā kā

तव मित्रं किं Who is your friend?

tava mitraṃ kiṃ

तव वाहनं किं What is your vehicle?

tava vāhanaṃ kiṃ

Observe that there are no question marks in any of the sentences. In Sanskrit, no punctuation is ever used. Generally, the punctuation is recognized from the intonation.

Even in the interrogative form, the verb अस् (to be) is not explicitly used.

Gender becomes apparent in these sentences as can be observed with the ending akshara of the words i.e., कः , का and किं .

कः is the masculine form known as

पुंलिङ्गः (pumliṅgaḥ)

का is the feminine form known as

स्त्रीलिङ्गः (strīliṅgaḥ)

किं is the neuter form known as

नपुंसकलिङ्गः (napumsakaliṅgaḥ)

Among the words used in the sentences given above, the following words are masculine in gender.

रामः, शेखरः, देवः, पुत्रः, शिवः, माधवः,
जयदेवः, विजयः, पिता, भ्राता

The following are feminine words

सीता, उमा, पार्वती, विजया, देवी, पुत्री,
भार्या, माता, स्वसा, पद्मा, सुभद्रा, मल्लिका

Some examples of nouns in the neuter gender are

मित्रं, वाहनम् , नाम, धनम् , जलम् ,
कमलम् , आभरणम्

In Sanskrit, gender is not decided by the meaning of the word but is fixed by other considerations such as the form of the word and its ending.

A Note on the word तव .

The form of address तव , it should be noted , is mostly used in circumstances involving persons who enjoy a close relationship with the person speaking the sentence. Often, the form with respect

भवतः (m) or भवत्याः (f) is used.

However, it is observed that the form तव was in regular use in earlier times and did not mean any disrespect. In keeping with modern trends, we are following the practice of using तव for the familiar form of address and भवतः/भवत्याः for the respectful form. This is similar to the usage of the German words "dein" and "ihr".

Demonstrative pronouns.

Masculine	एषः	He (who is nearby)
	सः	He (who is farther away)
Feminine	एषा	She (who is nearby)
	सा	She (who is farther away)
Neuter	एतत्	This
	तत्	That

The use of the demonstrative pronoun will depend on whether the speaker is refering to a person in the immediate vicinity or someone at a distance. Essentially, this is equivalent to the difference between "this" and "that". In Sanskrit this distinction applies for all the three genders.

एषः	and	सः	(masculine)
ēṣaḥ		saḥ	
एषा	and	सा	(feminine)
ēṣā		sā	
एतत्	and	तत्	(neuter)
ētat		tat	

Let us look at some examples.

एषः काकः	This (is a) crow
ēṣaha kākaḥ	
एषा माला	This (is a) garland
ēṣā mālā	
एषः मम गजः	This (is) my elephant
ēṣaha mama gajaḥ	
एषा मम भार्या	This (is) my wife
ēṣā mama bhāryā	
एतत् कमलम्	This (is a) lotus
ētat kamalam	
एतत् तव कमलम्	This (is) your lotus
ētat tava kamalam	
सः कृष्णः	That (is) Krishna
saḥ kṛṣṇaḥ	
सा कृष्णा	That is Krishnaa (f)
(Krishnaa is a feminine name)	
तत् आसनम्	That (is a) seat
tat āsanam	
तत् तव आसनम्	That (is) your seat

tat tava āsanam

1.3 Some common expressions used in daily life.

नमस्ते namastē	Greeetings
सुप्रभातम् suprabhātam	Good Morning
कुशलम् वा kuśalam vā	How do you do?
धन्यवादाः dhanyavādā:	Thank you, Thanks
स्वागतम् svāgatam	Welcome
धन्योस्मि dhanyōsmi	I am thankful (I am grateful)
पुनर्मिलामः punarmilāmaḥ	See you again
क्षम्यताम् kṣamyatām	Please excuse me
शुभमस्तु śubhamastu	Best wishes

Glossary:
Words already seen in the sections.

देवः	- God	देवी	- Goddess
मित्रम्	- friend		
पिता	- father	माता	- mother
नाम	- name		
पुत्रः	- son	पुत्री	- daughter
वाहनम्	- vehicle		
भ्राता	- brother	स्वसा	- sister

मम	- my		
भर्ता	- husband	भार्या	- wife

Here are some more (new) words.

1. Masculine gender

नरः	- man	काकः	- crow
मयूरः	- peacock		
वानरः	- monkey	शुनकः	- dog
करः	- hand		
गजः	- elephant	अचलः	- mountain
मार्जारः	- cat		
अश्वः	- horse		

2. Feminine gender

माला	- garland	कथा	- story
दया	- mercy		
सभा	- hall	भाषा	- language
कृपा	- sympathy		
लता	- creeper	शुनी	- female dog
वानरी	- female monkey		
बड्वा	- mare	मयूरी	- peahen
मार्जारी	- female cat		
नारी	- woman		
शारदा	- name of a Goddess		
सरस्वती	- Goddess of learning		

3. Neuter gender

भवनम्	- house	कमलम्	- lotus
आननम्	- face		
आसनम्	- seat	जलम्	- water
धनम्	- wealth		

Exercises.

1. Learn to pronounce all the words introduced in the earlier sections. Correct pronounciation is essential for Sanskrit. Make use of the Roman transliteration given alongside when necessary.

Try and pronounce the following words.

गोविन्दः	भरतः	वामनः	पुस्तकम्
चारुमती	अरुणा	ललिता	अम्बा
भास्करः	गणितः	लोकः	पण्डितः
सुकन्या	लक्ष्मी	वाणी	गोमति

2. Using the words intoduced in section 1.4, try to form sentences similar to those in sections 1.1 and 1.2.

3. Try and form sentences in Sanskrit.

This is your husband.
That is your son.
This is my lotus.
That is your lotus.
This is Govinda. (m)
That is Vimalaa. (f)
Salutations, Krishna.
See you again, daughter.